

EXHIBITS.

By E. P. Ramsay, Esq., F.L.S., &c.:—*Perameles Broadbentii*, from Port Moresby, New Guinea. Mounted specimen. And White Ants (*Termes*), probably a new species, obtained from a Blue Gum tree, near Sydney.

By Mr. Brazier:—A new species of *Conus* and a new species of *Mitra*. A specimen of *Obsidian* (?), full of spherical cavities, which, when placed on the fire, had exploded with much violence.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1878.

W. J. STEPHENS, Esq., M.A., the President, in the Chair.

VISITOR.

W. A. HASWELL, Esq., M.A., B. Sc. of Edinburgh, was introduced to the meeting by the Chairman.

DONATIONS.

Proceedings of the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria, Vol. V., for 1878. From the Society.

PAPERS READ.

Notes on PUFFINUS (*Nectris*) CARNEIPES, *Gould*, Handbk. Bds. Aust., Vol. II., p. 465.

By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S.

This species of Puffin represents on the N.S.W. coast the *Nectris brevicaudus*, of South Australia, and is as numerous in certain places as that species is there.

Among other places they frequent the Solitary Islands, in great numbers during the breeding season which lasts from September till December. Through the kindness of James Barnett, Esq., the Colonial Architect, I have received from Messrs. MacLeod, Jennings & Murray, a fine series of these birds and their eggs.

The birds arrived early in September, and at once betook themselves to excavating their nesting-holes, which are short

burrows in the ground, about 6 inches in diameter and 12 to 20 inches in length, in no instance was more than one egg obtained in a burrow; the males and females assist in incubation; out of five specimens of birds taken from the burrows 4 proved to be females. There is no difference in the plumage of the sexes. The eggs are apparently laid at night; the birds arrive in countless numbers in the evening and most of them, the males probably, or those not engaged in hatching, return to the sea at daylight in the morning. As many as 20 dozen eggs have been taken on a single morning, the workmen at the lighthouse finding them a very delicious article of food. Their average weight is 2 oz.; the lightest and smallest sent me weighed 1·5 oz. They are usually of an oval form, 2·4 inches in length by 1·6 inch breadth, of a pure white color and of a smooth fine grain. One specimen sent to me by Mr. MacLeod, is more pointed at the thin end, and has very light brown irregular blotches on the thicker end; the shell is slightly different in texture and may belong to a species of Tern, nevertheless it was obtained in one of the Puffin's burrows.

MEASUREMENTS OF EGGS.

No.	Length.	Breadth.	
1.	2·4	1·6	laid Dec. 5th, 1878.
2.	2·4 . . .	1·6	„ „ „
3.	2·35	1·5	taken Dec. 5th „
4.	2·25	1·54	laid Dec. 10th „
5.	2·47	1·57	„ „ „
1a.	2·45	1·63	laid Nov. 25th „
2a.	2·33	1·7	„ „ „

Specimens of the birds sent to me alive have the irides blackish brown, legs and feet pale flesh color, bill dark brown above lighter below.

Total length	♂ 17 inches	♀ 16·5
Wing	„ 11·3	„ 11·4
Tail	„ 5·2	„ 5·4
Tarsus	„ 1·85	„ 1·85
Mid-toe and nail	„ 2·3	„ 2·3
Bill from forehead feathers	„ 1·4	„ 1·4
Culmen	„ 1·6	„ 1·6
Bill from nostril	„ 1·1	„ 1·05
Bill from gape	„ 2	„ 1·15
From nasal tube to forehead	„ 0·45	„ 0·45

Hab. The whole of the East Coast as far north as Torres Straits.

The specimens and eggs described are from the South Solitary a rocky island near Port Stephens.

On two new species of Crabs, of the genus *STENORHYNCHUS*.

By WILLIAM A. HASWELL, M.A., B. Sc.

The genus *Stenorhynchus* of Latreille was for a long time regarded as being restricted in its range to European seas. More recently, however, two species have been described from the southern hemisphere—one, *S. falcifer*, by Stimpson from the Cape of Good Hope, and the other *S. curvirostris*, by Dr. A. Milne-Edwards* from Bass's Straits.

1.—*STENORHYNCHUS BREVIROSTRIS*, *sp. nov.*

Gastric region of the carapace with five tubercles, of which four are situated anteriorly in a transverse line and very small, while the fifth is much larger and situated in the middle line close to the posterior border of the region. Cardiac region with three tubercles, the two anterior being close together in the same transverse line, and very large; the third small, situated close behind them. Two obscure tubercles on the lateral hepatic regions, and three on the branchial. Lateral margins with two prominent triangular teeth. Rostrum short, of two bluntish teeth which do not reach further forward than the distal extremity of the second joint of the external antennæ, the furrow between them not extending so far back as the line joining the posterior borders of the orbits. No infra-orbital spine; upper boundary of the orbit very prominent, but without a supra-orbital spine. Eyes with a slight tuberosity on the anterior surface of their peduncle, and a small conical projection on the anterior and superior aspect of their distal extremity. Antennæ and maxillipedes very similar to those of *S. phalangium*. Epistome with a slight tubercle on each side near the auditory organ. Anterior limbs equalling in length about two-and-a-half times the breadth of the carapace; arm in

* Description de quelques Crustacés nouveaux ou peu connus, Journal des Museum Godeffroy, Band I., p. 77.